

## SOVIET POLICY IX WARTIME

Nor was the motion picture forgotten as a powerful means of propaganda. The Soviet authorities owned Setareh i<sup>4</sup>\*The Star"-,, a movie theater situated in the most conspicuous spot on the main Avenue, Shahabad. A mysterious fire In 1944 did much damage to the building, but the theater was restored without delay. 7Vo other well-known theaters, Mayak and Teheran, presented considerably more Soviet films than movies received from other countries. A certain sector of the main street was so plastered with Soviet fhn posters that it practically resembled a city in one of the Asiatic republics of the Soviet Union. In addition, the Soviet Embassy or the Cultural Society were indefatigable in presenting motion pictures ar large official parties. Such parties were held in the wintertime in the spacious rooms of the Soviet Embassy, which inherited the premises from the Imperial regime. In the summer they were held in Zar-gandeh, a summer residence with magnificent parks, located about seven miles from Teheran. Five hundred to one thousand guests were usual at these parties at which lavish entertainment with a buffet dinner, vodka, wines and champagne was customarily offered. Soviet military bands or orchestras and artists brought from Russia for this special purpose added to the glamor of these receptions. Thus, apart from giving substantial meals to the invariably hungry multitude in which grandees and suspicious-looking minor Tudeh agents elbowed each other energetically to obtain access to the table, these parties im-pressed the guests with the wealth and power of the northern neigh- bor. They contrasted with the wartime austerity prevailing at British

Embassy receptions.

A propaganda center of inestimable value to Russia was the Soviet Hospital in Teheran. It was conducted by Dr. Baroyan, an Armenian, who was believed to hold an important position in the Foreign Section of the N.K.V.D., and whose travels to Cairo were undoubtedly a riddle to many an intelligence agent of the Western powers. Since medical services were greatly needed, the hospital possessed an excellent reputation. Iranians were permitted to use this hospital, and many prominent members of Iranian society took advantage of it. Iranian medical circles were drawn into collaboration with the hospital, under whose auspices a *Medical Review*, published in Persian

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